



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 11, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253  
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603  
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160  
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**Resources and Development Committee votes to approve  
Navajo Housing Authority's proposed 2014 Navajo Nation Housing Plan**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The Resources and Development Committee on Tuesday, approved Legislation No. 0168-13, the fiscal year 2014 Navajo Nation Housing Plan for the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 Indian Housing Block Grant funding.

The Navajo Nation Housing Plan, consisting of housing needs, budgets, audits, certifications, and program descriptions, serves as the official Indian Housing Plan for the Navajo Nation, an annual requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock) emphasized the need to approve the Housing Plan prior to submitting the finalized document by the July 18 deadline set, by the U.S. Department of HUD.

"I am aware there are some questions about how this legislation that will affect development projects that chapters have submitted to Navajo Housing Authority," said Delegate Begaye. "I believe many of those questions can be answered with the proposed housing plan."

Aneva Yazzie, Navajo Housing Authority CEO, added that changes have been made to the U.S. Department of HUD Indian Housing Plan guidelines.

"U.S. Department of HUD has decided to consolidate prior year appropriations into one single grant," said Yazzie. "The list of expenditures, reflect projects that need to be rolled over versus what was actually expended."

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) questioned NHA's ability to thoroughly explain HUD processes and if the proposed plan would increase housing developments.

"I have requested information about some of these projects, that still hasn't been provided or explained to me," said Delegate Pete. "The Nation must solidify some of the housing plan's deficiencies before we send this to U.S. Department of HUD."

Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) was also displeased with the housing plan's listing of projects and contractors and questioned if the proposed plan would fairly appropriate funds to chapters that do not have NHA housing developments.

“The way this [housing plan] is put together, we will be talking about the same things next year,” said Delegate Tsosie. “We aren’t going to be making any changes to the Nation’s number one issue – housing.”

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) expressed concern over the growing number of families in need of a home.

“Two years ago, the RDC made housing a priority for the Nation, I think we need to get back on track to build homes,” said Delegate Benally. “We have young families reaching the age of 18 and they’re joining the group of 40,000 families still in need of a home.”

After a lengthy discussion, the RDC requested for NHA to further investigate the Ft. Defiance Housing Corporation debacle, provide the RDC with a copy of NHA’s project prioritization process, and a listing of chapters without NHA housing developments.

The RDC approved Legislation No. 0168-13 with a vote of 4- 1.

The Resources and Development Committee serves as the final authority for the legislation.

# # #

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)